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#7
Sup 1641
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Re application of:

BURNE ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/582,524

Filed: June 27, 2000

Examiner: Padmanabhan, Kartic

For: ASSAYS FOR AUTOANTIBODIES

Art Unit: 1641

Our File No.: 0769.00140

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 14, 2001, Paper No. 6.
Pursuant to our telephone conversation with the Examiner, attached is page 27 of 27
of the previous Amendment which was mailed on September 13, 2001.

REMARKS

Claims 82-150 are currently pending in the application. Only claims 82, 115, 146, and 149 are in independent form.

The Office Action stated that only 26 pages were present in the response. In order to complete the set of the marked up version of the claims, page 27 of 27 is attached hereto. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that reconsideration of the rejections and advancement of the case to issue are respectfully requested.



The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 11-

1449.

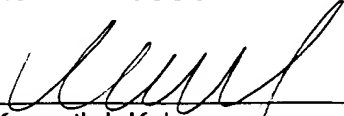
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Respectfully submitted,

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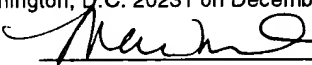
KOHN & ASSOCIATES


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Dated: December 28, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 27, 2001.


Marie M. DeWitt

[substantially] bound both to said immobilized antibody and to said non-immobilized antibody.



142. A kit according to claim 141, wherein said antigen includes:
a first binding site to which either said first autoantibody or said immobilized antibody can bind, whereby binding of immobilized antibody to said first binding site is [substantially] precluded where said first autoantibody has previously [substantially] bound to said first binding site; and

a second binding site to which either said second autoantibody or said non-immobilized antibody can bind;

wherein said first and second binding sites are [substantially] distinct sites on said antigen.

145. A kit according to claim 120 which further comprises a positive control that is present in the presence or absence of the at least one autoantibody being screened, wherein the positive control comprises at least one control agent attached to the substrate that can bind to the at least one [substantially] non-immobilized antibody.

146. A method of screening a patient for at least one autoantibody to at least one antigen, which method comprises:

- (a) obtaining a sample of body fluid from said patient;
- (b) contacting said sample of body fluid of step (a) with an antigen source of a kit according to claim 115, so as to obtain a mixture wherein said antigen is allowed to [substantially] bind with said autoantibody, when the latter is present in said sample;
- (c) allowing said mixture to flow [relative to] along a substrate of said kit [so as to allow said mixture to contact] and to interact with said antibody immobilized to said substrate; and
- (d) monitoring binding of said autoantibody and said antigen present in said mixture, so as to provide an indication of the presence of said autoantibody in said sample of body fluid from said patient.